

REMARKS

By the present amendment, independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended to clarify that the initial configuration information includes network communication parameters; claim 17 has been amended to correct a typographical error; claims 4, 12, and 20 have each been placed in an independent format incorporating the (unamended) subject matter of their base claims,¹ and claim 21 has been added. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-21 will be pending in this application.

Background

Wireless communication devices need to be initially (and properly) configured prior to their introduction into a particular wireless network system. For example, wireless communication devices typically are manufactured in volume and stored in inventory. When a request for a device is received, the requested device is retrieved from inventory and is initially configured via programming for the particular wireless network environment into which it will be used. For example, various information including communication parameters (e.g., network identification, network address, etc.) needs to be programmed initially into the device before it will operate in a particular wireless network system.² It may be noted for future reference that the serial number can be included in this initial configuration (for inventory, recall, tracking stolen goods, warranty repairs, etc.), but a serial number *per se* is usually not considered a communication parameter.³

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-20 have been rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,787,174 to Tuttle in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,064,676 to Ward and/or U.S. Patent

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1. Claim 20 also incorporates the slight correction made to base claim 17.
 2. Other types of initial configuration information include, for example, special codes that identify modes of operation, enable/disable features, passwords, encryption keys, etc.
 3. That being said, the serial number maybe could be double as a network identifier in certain circumstances, although such a practice is not common (but may be possible).

No. 4,827,395 to Anders. Claims 1-20 have also been rejected as being obvious over these references and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,465,401 to Thompson.

The Tuttle invention is concerned with tracking integrated circuits and, to this end, encodes an integrated circuit with a serial number (or other identifying code) that can be remotely read by radio frequency communication. The Examiner admits that Tuttle "does not describe wireless writing to the memory through the transponder" but he asserts that it would have been obvious to modify Tuttle to include such wireless writing in view of Ward or Anders. Specifically, the Examiner seems to be saying that it would have been obvious, in view of Ward, Anders, and/or Thompson to wirelessly "write" the serial number into the tag's memory when the device is not operating.

Even if one were (in hindsight) to make this modification, the Tuttle device would still not be receiving communication parameters corresponding to a particular wireless network. While the secondary references may or may not teach receiving information from an external source, the incorporation of these teachings into Tuttle would result in receipt of the serial number only by the device, not communication parameters.⁴ Significantly, the Tuttle reference is not concerned with the initial configuration of its main circuit 1, and is only concerned with being able to read the serial number for theft-detection and/or inventory purposes. Additionally, Wards, Anders and/or Thompson do not show or suggest providing the Tuttle device with network communication parameters corresponding to a particular wireless network. Moreover, the applied art teaches against wirelessly "writing" a serial number as the relevant devices appear to require previously installed serial numbers to accomplish wireless interaction with a passive tag.

Independent claim 1 and independent claim 9 now each set forth that the initial configuration information includes network communication parameters corresponding to a particular wireless network and that the interface with the processor allows operation in the wireless network by drawing upon the initial configuration information. The Examiner is also asked to please note that claims 4, 12, and 20 (now each in an independent format) originally set forth that the initial configuration information comprises a network address and/or a network identification.

4. Nothing in the applied art even remotely suggests that any of the discussed serial numbers are being used and/or could be used as a network identifier.

Conclusion

This application is now in condition for allowance and an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A wireless communication device destined for operation in a particular wireless network, comprising:

- a transceiver for communicating in a the wireless network;
- a processor for controlling operations of the transceiver based on initial configuration information including network communication parameters corresponding to this particular wireless network;
- a passive tag for receiving the initial configuration information from an external source and storing the initial configuration information in a non-volatile memory at a time when the wireless communication device is otherwise in a non-operational mode; and
- an interface for enabling the processor to access the initial configuration information stored in the memory when the wireless communication device is in an operational mode and thereby allowing operation in the wireless network by drawing upon the initial configuration information.

2. (Original) The wireless communication device of claim 1, wherein the passive tag comprises an antenna for receiving a radio frequency (RF) signal with the initial configuration information modulated thereon, and a decoder/demodulator for demodulating the RF signal and decoding the initial configuration information therefrom.

3. (Original) The wireless communication device of claim 2, wherein the passive tag derives power from the RF signal and provides the derived power to the decoder/demodulator and the memory.

4. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ wireless communication device ~~of claim 1~~, comprising:

- a transceiver for communicating in a wireless network;
- a processor for controlling operations of the transceiver based on initial configuration information;
- a passive tag for receiving the initial configuration information from an external source and storing the initial configuration information in a non-volatile memory at a

time when the wireless communication device is otherwise in a non-operational mode;
and

an interface for enabling the processor to access the initial configuration information stored in the memory when the wireless communication device is in an operational mode;

wherein the initial configuration information comprises at least one of a network address and a network identification for the wireless communication device.

5. (Original) The wireless communication device of claim 1, wherein the wireless communication device is a mobile terminal.

6. (Original) The wireless communication device of claim 1, wherein the wireless communication device is an access point.

7. (Original) The wireless communication device of claim 1, wherein the wireless communication device is non-operational by virtue of the processor being in a powered down state.

8. (Original) The wireless communication device of claim 1, wherein the wireless communication device is non-operational by virtue of being unassembled.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for use in relation to a wireless communication device destined for operation in a particular network, the device including a transceiver for communicating in a the wireless network, a processor for controlling operations of the transceiver based on initial configuration information including network communication parameters corresponding to this particular wireless network, and a passive tag, the method comprising the step of:

transmitting the initial configuration information from a source external to the wireless communication device so as to be received by the passive tag and stored in a non-volatile memory within the passive tag while the wireless communication device is otherwise in a non-operational mode;

interfacing the processor with passive tag to access the initial configuration information stored in the memory when the wireless device is in an operational mode;
and

operating in the wireless network by drawing upon the initial configuration information.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the passive tag comprises an antenna for receiving a radio frequency (RF) signal transmitted during the transmitting step with the initial configuration information modulated thereon, and a decoder/demodulator for demodulating the RF signal and decoding the initial configuration information therefrom.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of the passive tag deriving power from the RF signal and providing the derived power to the decoder/demodulator and the memory.

12. (Currently Amended) A The method of claim 9, for use in relation to a wireless communication device including a transceiver for communicating in a wireless network, a processor for controlling operations of the transceiver based on initial configuration information, and a passive tag, the method comprising the step of: transmitting the initial configuration information from a source external to the wireless communication device so as to be received by the passive tag and stored in a non-volatile memory within the passive tag while the wireless communication device is otherwise in a non-operational mode;

wherein the initial configuration information comprises at least one of a network address and a network identification for the wireless communication device.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the wireless communication device is a mobile terminal.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the wireless communication device is an access point.

15. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the wireless communication device is non-operational by virtue of the processor being in a powered down state.

16. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the wireless communication device is non-operational by virtue of being unassembled.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of initially configuring the wireless communication device of claim 1, said method comprising the steps of:

transmitting the initial configuration information from a source external to the wireless communication device;

receiving the initial configuration information by the passive tag and storing the initial configuration information in the non-volatile memory;

accessing the initial configuration information stored in the memory; and
controlling operations of the transceiver based on the initial configuration information.

18. (Previously Added) A method as set forth in claim 17, wherein the processor is in a powered-down state during the transmitting and receiving steps.

19. (Previously Added) A method as set forth in claim 17, wherein the wireless communication device is unassembled during the transmitting and receiving steps.

20. (Currently Amended) A method ~~as set forth in claim 17~~, of initially configuring a wireless communication device, the device comprising a transceiver for communicating in a wireless network; a processor for controlling operations of the transceiver based on initial configuration information; a passive tag for receiving the initial configuration information from an external source and storing the initial configuration information in a non-volatile memory at a time when the wireless communication device is otherwise in a non-operational mode; and an interface for enabling the processor to access the initial configuration information stored in the memory when the wireless communication device is in an operational mode, said method comprising the steps of:

transmitting the initial configuration information from a source external to the wireless communication device;

receiving the initial configuration information by the passive tag and storing the initial configuration information in the non-volatile memory;

accessing the initial configuration information stored in the memory; and
controlling operations of the transceiver based on the initial configuration
information;

wherein said transmitting step comprises transmitting at least one of a network address and a network identification for the wireless communication device.